

NORTH-CENTRAL Individual Ideas From Evaluations

- Remove political influence from economic development. Increase overall funding in economic development.
- Telecommunications infrastructure needs to be a TOP priority in the region. The IRRRB in Minnesota really has a leg up on us!!
- Please look at ways to cut the costs of Wisconsin government – cut down numbers of UW, state agencies, technical college employees, etc. the disparity is growing.
- Assess business and industry based upon sales to fund incumbent worker training.
- Made CDBG grants to counties outside of the SMSA's to establish venture capital or community development loan funds. Grants should be matched by local capital except in distressed counties.
- Promote Wisconsin as a retirement community.
- The initial list also included looking at our entire taxing system – income, property, personal, etc. to see if system could be more efficient and reduce individuals burden. Ultimately take Wisconsin out of the perception of being one of the highest taxation states. This may include realistic comparison to cost of services that government provides via tax dollars.
- Encourage and reward partnerships to plan and think regionally. Further develop school and work partnerships at all levels – similar to school-to-work program.
- We must provide more reasons and incentives for businesses to participate. We cannot only direct this dialogue to providers and larger corporations. Too much small business involvement in the AMS's to not have their voices.
- Need to tap skills/expertise of our retired population. Promote/encourage/reward regional planning a partnership – smart growth plans by regions.
- Need a “one-stop shopping” regional service center approach to economic development for state/federal/regional programs: i.e.: Department of Commerce, Forward Wisconsin, PIC's, Workforce Development, WHEDA, USDA Rural Development, CAP, etc.
- Re-brand Wisconsin.
- Child Care.
- Lest we forget, our technical colleges are the providers of our workforce....it's quality....it's skill and educational level. Decreasing financial support by the state will eventually result in second rate workforce. Capacity must be expanded. Youth ventures/youth apprentice shop strengthened. Capacity building suspended.
- The state of Wisconsin is seeing more and more large privately held companies be sold to out-of-state firms. This trend will continue. However, the real trend that is a big issue is these same entrepreneurs leaving the state of Wisconsin to avoid the personal income tax hit. The loses business expertise and potential income tax. To resolve (partially) this issue, the state should modify tax structure.
- More funding for CDBG, PFED & TGA grant programs to help more development.